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THE WESTERN SENTINEL

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Office on West Street, below the M. E. Church

[From the Raleigh Standard.]

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

We lay before our readers the following letter from Secretary Seward to Gov. Holden requesting him to present to the Legislature the Constitutional Amendment relative to the abolition of slavery:

[DUPLICATE]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 2, 1865.

To his Excellency, the Governor of the State of North Carolina, Raleigh, N. C.:

SIR:—I transmit an attested copy of a Joint Resolution of Congress, approved on the 1st instant, proposing to the Legislatures of the several States a Thirteenth Article to the Constitution of the United States. Your Excellency is requested to cause the decision of the Legislature of North Carolina to be taken upon the subject. An acknowledgment of the receipt of this communication is requested by your Excellency's

Most obedient Servant,
F. W. SEWARD,
Acting Secretary.

[DUPLICATE]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
To all whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

I certify, that annexed is a true copy of a Joint Resolution of Congress, entitled "A Resolution submitting to the Legislatures of the Several States a Proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States," approved February 1, 1865; the original of which is on file in this Department.

In testimony whereof, I, William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this second day of February, A. D. 1865, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-ninth.

WILL. H. SEWARD.

A RESOLUTION
Submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a Proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both Houses concurring,) That the following article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid, to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said constitution, namely:

ARTICLE XIII.
Sect. 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the

United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Sec. 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Approved February 1, 1865.

THE OLD WOMAN AND THE CROW.

At a certain cross-roads in the State of Indiana stood a small grocery or "whiskey shop," where "bust-head" and "chain lightning" were dealt out at the snuff of a candle, at twenty cents a quart. The presiding genius of this delectable institution was one Bill Sykes, who, among various other pets had a domestic crow, black as the ace of spades.

This crow had learned among other things, to repeat quite distinctly the words "damn you," which he, of course, heard frequently used in the grocery. During the prevalence of a knock down and drag out fight one day, however, the crow was frightened from the house and flew off into the woods never to return.

About three miles from the grocery was a settlement, meeting-house—an old, tumbled-down, dilapidated affair, only used on certain occasions, when a "circuit-rider" happened to pass that way. Into this building went the crow, taking peaceful possession; and two days after, the church was thrown open for preaching, and a large crowd assembled, among whom was a very old lady, who was compelled to use crutches in walking, and took herself in a front pew, and was soon deeply absorbed in the eloquence of the preacher.

The reverend gentleman had scarcely got under full head-way, and commenced thundering his anathemas at all grades of sinners, when a hoarse, croaking voice from above uttered the ominous words:

"Damn you!"

The preacher and congregation looked ghast at such profanity, and each peered in his neighbor's face in vain to detect some sign of guilt. Quiet was at length restored, however, and the sermon proceeded, but ere ten minutes elapsed the ominous "damn you" again electrified the audience, and just as the preacher cast his eyes upward to search for the delinquent, the crow flew down from his perch, and lighting on the Bible, calmly surveyed the terrified crowd, as he gave another doleful croak:

"Damn you!"

The effect was electrical. Giving one startled and terrified glance at the intruder, the preacher sprang through the window, carrying sash, glass and all with him, and set off, at a break-neck pace

through the woods, closely followed by his horror-stricken congregation, who had fled out of the building pell-mell after him. In the general scramble the old lady with the crutches had been knocked down in the church, where she lay unable to rise, and on observing the crow, which was after something to eat, flew down beside her, and cocking up his eye at her very knowingly again croaked:

"Damn you!"

The old lady eyed him savagely for a few moments, and then burst forth, in a tone of reekless defiance:

"Yes—and damn you, I too! I had nothing to do with getting up this Methodist meeting, and you know it, too."

The poor old soul had mistaken the crow for the devil, and concluded to propitiate, if possible, the wrath of his satanic majesty by denying all complicity in the affair. The world is full of just such people.

THE PIEDMONT RAILROAD.—At the meeting of the stockholders of the Piedmont Railroad, Danville, Va., last week, the same president and directors were chosen as now have charge of the Richmond and Danville Railroad, with the addition of two other directors, J. M. Morehead, of Greensboro, and John Wilkes, of Charlotte, N. C. The meeting ordered the payment of salaries due the officers of the road who were serving at the time it was seized by the military authority.

Mr. J. T. Watson was elected treasurer of the company.

South Carolina has, by her State Legislature, adopted the Constitutional Amendment forever prohibiting Slavery in the United States. President Johnson's recent despatch to the Provisional Government would seem to have a good effect, and no doubt the example of South Carolina, in outstripping New Jersey and Delaware in this good work, will be imitated in a few days by others of the lately rebellious States.

South Carolina is the twelfth State that has adopted the amendment, and similar action by two more is all that is now necessary.

Bills have been introduced into the Legislature of South Carolina for the purpose of empowering State officers to seize all fire-arms found in the possession of the freedmen, to prevent them from hereafter becoming possessed of arms, and to punish with severity any white person proposing to sell the same to them. Measures are also proposed to start up shops kept by freedmen, and to prohibit any white person employing a negro servant without the written consent of his or her former master having first been obtained. The South Carolinians are very anxious for the removal from their midst of all the National troops and the organization of their State militia.

The National Express and Transportation Company was organized in Richmond on 31st ult., by the unanimous election of General Jos. E. Johnston, as President, and the following Board of Directors:

Francis Skiddy, of New York; Col. M. G. Harman, of Va.; Benjamin Hart, of New York; William L. Montague, of Maryland; Charles W. Purcell, of Virginia; William J. Hawkins, of North Carolina; General John Echols, of Virginia; Larkin W. Glazebrook, of Virginia.

We understand from the Petersburg Express that the salary of Gen. Johnston has been fixed at \$10,000 per annum. One of the peculiarities of this company is, that all its officers and employees in the Northern States are to be selected from those who have served in the Federal army, and in the Southern States from those who have served in the Confederate Army.

Gen. Robert Ransom of N. C. has been appointed superintendent of the company for this State.

There was a most daring attempt at murder and highway robbery a few miles from Fayetteville a few days ago. A certain Baker runs a line of hacks from Warsaw, on the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, to Fayetteville, about 45 miles distant. Last Thursday the stage was stopped by a man on a horse, and having a pair of pistols around his waist, demanding the money of the passengers, two in number, one of whom was Mr. Baker, proprietor of the line. They did not seem fit to comply with his polite request, when he commenced firing with his pistol, wounding one passenger slightly, mortally wounding the negro driver, and severely, if not mortally, wounding Mr. Baker, also wounding one of the horses. The animals took flight and ran off, and so did the highwayman. It was a very bold and daring thing, committed in open daylight, a few miles from Fayetteville on the public highway.—Express.

The Washington Republican says it has the positive assurance of Hon. Edward McPherson, Clerk of the House of Representatives, that he will not enter upon the roll of the House or call the names of the Representatives of the late rebellious States, but will leave them to present their credentials to the House.

ADVICE ON GAS, L&C.—It should be the object of all to avoid controversy, to allay passion, give free scope to reason and every kindly feeling. By doing this, and encouraging our citizens to engage in the duties of life with all their heart and mind, with a determination not to be turned aside by thoughts of the past or fears of the future, our country will not only be restored in material prosperity, but will be advanced in science, in virtue, and in religion."

Jamaica appears to be the scene of a negro demonstration, which might be difficult to understand by those who look upon slavery as the only grievance. The English government not only freed the negro slaves in the West India colonies, but paid some compensation to the owners. That government did all for its pets that a government could do. The fruits of its interference have long since been seen in the want of fruits from that soil.

Some other traits are now showing themselves, having been rapidly developed and matured under the influence of exaggerated reports from this country. For the sufferers by these Jamaica outrages, we all have sympathy; but we do not lay all the blame upon the negroes, and we cannot but regret that the horrors now afflicting Jamaica, did not fall upon those primarily chargeable with the whole affair; upon those intermeddling pseudo philanthropists whose malign influence has stimulated their slaves and instruments to the acts of cruelty and barbarism which shock the world, but which pass unheeded by the serene demons who would sacrifice everybody but themselves for the fulfillment of theories.—Wilmington Journal.

Mr. John Connell, a resident of Wilmington, N. C., was found brutally murdered in his own bed-room, in the city, on the morning of the 3d inst. His body presented a horrible spectacle, his head and face being considerably swollen, and so completely covered with gore as to render identification quite difficult at first.

A negro named Brock and a mulatto girl named Serena have been arrested on the charge of committing the murder. The girl has partially confessed and implicated an U. S. negro soldier in the affair. The crime was committed for the sake of a small sum of money in Connell's possession.

The Natchez Courier tells the following:

A few days since a white man by the name of Heller, seduced and eloped with a negro woman from Nashville, Tennessee. They were followed by the injured husband, in company of a detective, and found in the town of Bucyrus, Ohio, where, as a "persecuted Southern lady," she had been the recipient of fetes, balls, dinners, etc. The sable colored dame returned home with her liege lord, and Heller was sued by Bryant for seducing his wife, laying damages to the amount of \$10,000.

WATER-PROOF CURRENCY.—We are soon to have a new fractional currency printed on "membrane paper"—a new invention in the paper line—the successful imitation of which will baffle the skill of the oldest counterfeiter. It will be well nigh impossible to produce the paper outside the Treasury Department, and from its texture and finish the least expert in money will be able to distinguish the genuine note. Not the least of the many excellencies of this new currency is the fact that it will wash.

General Briscoe, of the Federal army, recently on trial at Washington, for stealing some \$80,000 from the quartermaster's safe in Lynchburg, Va., of which place he was in command after the surrender of General Lee, has been convicted and sentenced to be dishonorably dismissed from the army, and to lose all his back pay.

Suits have been commenced by the government against Southern post masters who were in arrears at the breaking out of the war, and who turned over the funds in their hands to the Confederate government.

For ninety-five successive years the Moravian missionary ship has made an annual voyage from Europe to the shores of Greenland and Labrador. The present is the ninth vessel employed in this service.